

AN UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITIES OF SINGERS IN THE CONTEXT OF A FUNERAL CEREMONY IN BONTOC, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES

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ABSTRACT

The study focuses on an ethnography of two communities of singers in Bontoc, Mt. Province, namely, a community of contemporary singers called *Tokwif* and a community of traditional singers. It describes the formation, role, repertoire, and cultural orientation of two communities of singers in the context of a funeral ceremony held in December 2006. Influenced by Christopher Small's concept of "*musicking*," the study provides an understanding of how communities of singers participate in an event such as a funeral wake and create meaning in relation to social obligations within the family and larger Bontoc community. Central in the performance of the two communities of singers is a vocal genre called *antoway*. *Antoway* are songs for the dead rendered during wakes for people who died at an old age. In the funeral ceremony under study, the *antoway* are performed in two different modalities. Religious, social, and political beliefs and how they are interpreted individually or collectively as a community reflect the mode